

Important Coins of the Islamic World

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Day of Sale:

Thursday 23 April 2015
at 2.00pm

Public viewing:

Nash House, St George Street, London W1S 2FQ

Monday 20 April	10.00am to 4.30pm
Tuesday 21 April	10.00am to 4.30pm
Wednesday 22 April	10.00am to 4.30pm

Or by previous appointment.

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Enquiries:

Stephen Lloyd or Tom Eden

Cover illustrations:

Lot 166 (*front*); lot 98 (*back*); lot 13 (*inside front*); lot 154 (*inside back*)

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Order of Sale

Thursday 23 April 2015, starting at 2.00pm

Arab-Byzantine, Arab-Sasanian and related issues	lots 1-14
Post-Reform Umayyad and Revolutionary Period	lots 15-34
Abbasid	lots 35-107
Spain, Aghlabid, Tulunid and Qarmatid	lots 108-114
Fatimid and Mamluk	lots 115-137
Batinite Rulers of Alamut	lots 138-141
Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Anatolia	lots 142-149
Ottoman	lots 150-154
Iran and the East	lots 155-171
Sultanate of Bengal	lot 172
An Order of Noble Bukhara with Diamonds	lot 173

The condition of most of the coins and medals in this catalogue is described by the use of conventional numismatic terms. For an explanation of these expressions, or for any further information, clients are invited to contact us directly.

IMPORTANT COINS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Thursday 23 April 2015, starting at 2.00pm



- 1
ARAB-LATIN COINAGE, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)
Gold Solidus, struck in North Africa, Indiction Θ (=92/3h)
- OBVERSE: In margin and across field: N ALIVS EST DS NIS VN CVTVS N E – SIMILS, for ‘Non alius est Deus nisi Unus cuius (!) non est similis’
- REVERSE: In margin and across field: I N DNI MSR MSAM FRT IN AFRI – INDC O, for ‘In nomine Domini misericordis feritus in Africa indictione O’
- WEIGHT: 4.10g
- REFERENCES: Walker C.12; Bernardi 17
- CONDITION: *Good very fine with legends clearly engraved on the dies, rare*
- ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



- 2
ARAB-LATIN COINAGE, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)
Gold Solidus, Spain, Indiction XI / 94h
- OBVERSE: In margin: H slds FRI IN SP IN ANN XIIIH (mostly retrograde), for ‘Hic solidus feritus in Spania anno XIIIH’
In field: INDC XI
- REVERSE: Around eight-pointed star: ‘In nomine Domini non Deus nisi Deus solus cui non socius’ (abbreviated)
- WEIGHT: 3.62g
- REFERENCES: Bernardi 30
- CONDITION: *Small test-mark on edge and other minor surface marks, otherwise very fine*
- ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



- 3
ARAB-LATIN COINAGE, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)
Gold Solidus, Spain, Indiction XII (=95h)
- OBVERSE: In margin: ‘Hic solidus feritus in Spania anno...’ (abbreviated and blundered)
In field: INDC XII, with lines of contraction *below*
- REVERSE: Around eight-pointed star: ‘In nomine Domini non Deus nisi Deus solus cui non socius’ (abbreviated and blundered)
- WEIGHT: 4.55g
- REFERENCES: cf Walker p.75, P.45; Bernardi 31 RRR
- CONDITION: *Of coarse style and struck in pale gold, almost very fine and very rare of this year*
- ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

4

ARAB-BYZANTINE, 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)
Fals, 'Tabar' (for Tabariya), undated



OBVERSE: Standing figure of 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwan
 In margin: *li-'abd Allah 'Abd al-Malik amir al-mu'minin*

REVERSE: Modified cross-on-steps
 In margin: *la ilaha illa Allah wahdahu Muhammad rasul Allah*
 To left and right: *bi-Tabar – wafin*

WEIGHT: 2.55g

REFERENCE: Foss 104ff

CONDITION: *Irregular flan, very fine or better and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



‡5

ARAB-SASANIAN, KHUSRAW II TYPE WITH JAYYID
Drachm, ŠY (unlocated), year '7'

OBVERSE: Bust of Khusraw II with his name before; in second quadrant of margin: *jayyid*

WEIGHT: 3.76g

REFERENCE: Album F6 RRR

CONDITION: *Slightly ragged flan, has been cleaned and still with minor peripheral staining, good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000

NOTE: Drachms with the obverse legend *jayyid* instead of the standard *bismillah* have been considered some of the very earliest Arab-Sasanian coins. Album distinguishes two groups: one with the name and portrait of Yazdigerd III, and the other with the name and image of Khusraw II as on the present coin. It seems that both types were struck simultaneously but, while the Yazdigerd III derivatives are known from at least six different mints, those based on Khusraw II types are only reported from the mint of ŠY (as here). Confusingly, it seems that these coins could be dated according to two different systems: they sometimes bear what have been interpreted as Hijri dates (year 31 or 33 – the script is ambiguous), but are also found with the well-known frozen 'year 20' of the Yazdigerd era, familiar from the relatively plentiful Yazdigerd III drachms of this year with *bismillah* in the margin.

The date on the present coin appears to be the single number '7', and is presumably an authentic regnal year of Khusraw II copied faithfully from a prototype.

6

**ARAB-SASANIAN, MALIK B. 'AWS
Drachm, SK (Sijistan) 66h**

WEIGHT: 2.63g
REFERENCE: SICA 1: 367; Album – (see note after M40)
CONDITION: *Clipped, fine to good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: A coin of one of the rarest Arab-Sasanian governors, known only from a handful of examples all of which bear this mint and date. The first name, *Malik*, is almost certainly correctly read but the patronymic, *bin 'Aws*, is conjectural. Discussing this issue in SICA 1 (pp. 25-26), Album plausibly suggests that the date is in fact a frozen year – a practice common in Sijistan – and that Malik may have held power there for a short time between 66h and 72h.



7

**ARAB-SASANIAN, SALM B. ZIYAD
Drachm, MRW (Marw) 65h**

OBVERSE: In second and third quadrants of margin: *bismillah Allah – akbar*
REVERSE: In first quadrant of border: ομβίρο
WEIGHT: 3.31g
REFERENCES: Gaube p.29, 2.2.3.4.19; cf Walker p.81, 138 for a coin with similar legends (dated 68h)
CONDITION: *Mount removed from edge, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: This appears to be the earliest known Islamic coin to bear the famous slogan *Allah Akbar*.

Discussing the specimen dated 68 published by Walker, Album notes that the word ομβίρο on the reverse 'must assuredly be the Bactrian form of the city name Anbir' (SICA 1, p.23). His explanation for this curious situation whereby the coin apparently has two mint-names - the Pahlawi MRW (Marw) and the Bactrian ομβίρο (Anbir) - is that the Pahlawi legend denotes where the coin itself was struck (Marw), while the Bactrian inscription shows that it was issued under the auspices of the Ephthalites, whose political capital was at Anbir.

Further support for this coin having been struck by or for the Ephthalites comes from the presence of a fourth circle on the reverse, outside the four stars-and-crescents. As Album points out, this feature is not otherwise found on regular Arab-Sasanian drachms until the early 70s, but appears on the plentiful Ephthalite imitations of Anahita-type drachms of Khusraw II, struck well before the present coin.





8

**ARAB-SASANIAN, 'UMAR B. 'UBAYDALLAH
Drachm, WYHC (Arrajan) 71h**

OBVERSE: In second and third quadrants of margin: *lillah al-hamd* – Pahlawi AN
 WEIGHT: 3.14g
 REFERENCE: SICA 1: 479
 CONDITION: *Fine, rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



9

**ARAB-SASANIAN, HUMRAN B. ABAN
Drachm, ART (Ardashir Khurra) 72h**

WEIGHT: 2.70g
 REFERENCE: SICA 1: 30, *same obverse die*
 CONDITION: *Clipped, dark toning, fine to good fine and rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



10

**ARAB-SASANIAN, YAZID B. AL-MUHALLAB
Drachm, GRM+KRMAN (Garm Kirman) 78h**

OBVERSE: In second and third quadrants of margin: *quwwa Yazid billah* – Pahlawi šYR
 WEIGHT: 4.03g
 REFERENCE: SICA 1: 304
 CONDITION: *Some chloride deposits in margin, almost very fine and rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



11

ARAB-ARMENIAN, TEMP. MUHAMMAD B. MARWAN

Drachm, without mint (probably struck in Dabil), date blundered (probably struck circa 73-75h)

OBVERSE: Bust of Khusraw II right with his name in Pahlawi before; in second quadrant of margin: *jaza hadha*
 REVERSE: To right and left of fire-altar: vestigial Pahlawi mint-signature and date respectively
 WEIGHT: 2.40g
 REFERENCES: Sears 6-8; Album G97 RRR
 CONDITION: *Small edge nick, some staining and corrosion, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



12

ARAB-ARMENIAN, TEMP. MUHAMMAD B. MARWAN

Drachm or 'zuzun', possibly Barda'a or al-Bab circa 73-74, in the name of Hormazd IV

OBVERSE: Bust of Hormazd IV to right with his name in Pahlawi before and AFZWT behind
 In margin: *bismillah la i – laha illa Allah – wahdahu Muhammad – rasul Allah*
 REVERSE: Fire altar with attendants; šTA to left, *rabbi Allah* to right
 WEIGHT: 2.78g
 REFERENCE: cf Sears 1-3
 CONDITION: *Toned, some deposit, good very fine, apparently an unpublished variety of this very rare issue*

ESTIMATE: £7,000-10,000

NOTE: Published examples of this type seem to have the denominational name 'zuzun' to the right of the fire-altar on the reverse, and *rabbi Allah* in the second quadrant of the reverse margin. The present coin omits the denomination and moves *rabbi Allah* to its normal place, leaving the reverse margin plain.



ARAB-EPHthalite, YAZID B. AL-MUHALLAB
Drachm, ANBYR (Anbir) 84h



OBVERSE:	Sasanian bust right, wearing helmet with 'weather-vane' crest To right of bust, in Arabic: <i>Yazid bin - al-Muhallab</i> In second and third quadrants of margin, in Arabic: <i>bismillah - al-a'zim</i>
REVERSE:	Standing figure facing wearing armour and helmet with 'weather-vane' crest, holding spear vertically in left hand, right hand on pommel of sheathed sword at his waist. In field (in Pahlawi) ANBYR to left, date to right In first and second quadrants of margin: Hephthalite legend In fourth and third quadrants of margin (in Arabic): <i>duriba jizya bi-l-Juzjan</i>
WEIGHT:	3.04g
REFERENCES:	Walker 1952, p.108, 3, <i>same obverse die</i> ; Album E91 RRR
CONDITION:	<i>Ephthalite countermark in first quadrant of obverse margin, flan slightly curved, otherwise good fine and of the highest rarity, an historically important coin</i>
ESTIMATE:	£70,000-100,000

NOTE: This extraordinary type is one of the very latest Arab-Sasanian drachms issued. It is exceptional in many respects, but the first and most obvious must be the remarkable depiction of the armed warrior on the reverse. On virtually all Arab-Sasanian drachms the imagery is simply copied from Sasanian prototypes without conscious modification. Even on the present coin, where the bust on the obverse has been modified to the extent of adding a distinctive helmet, the features of the portrait have been left unaltered and are recognizably those of Khusraw II. But the standing warrior on the reverse is an entirely different matter, giving us as it does an accurate and naturalistic impression of the weapons and equipment of a Muslim commander of the first century Hijri.

The figure on the reverse is fully armoured, and depicted with sufficient accuracy that the armour itself can be shown to be chain mail rather than scale or lamellar plate. The curved loops on the armour are intended to represent mail rings, while the mail tunic is clearly sufficiently flexible to fit the outline of the warrior's body and extends down to his knees; below this, he wears greaves to protect his shins. The other main types of armour used at this time, scale or lamellar plate, were much more structured than mail and, being less flexible, would likely have been shorter. Another characteristic of chain mail is that it places almost all the weight of the armour on the shoulders, and one way of counteracting this was to wear a wide, strong belt which pulled the armour in. Such a belt is clearly visible both on the present coin and also on the piece published by Walker.

The prestige of a coat of mail in the early years of Islam, as well as its practical defensive value, is explicitly stated in the Qur'an:

It was We who taught him the making of coats of mail for your benefit, to guard you from each other's violence: will ye then be grateful?' (Qur'an 21:80)

The warrior is not explicitly identified; he may be the caliph, Yazid b. al-Muhallab, or perhaps an idealised representation of an armed Muslim fighter. It seems unlikely that Yazid would have been so presumptuous as to place a depiction of himself explicitly on a silver coin, particularly at a time when Arab-Sasanian drachms were finally being replaced by purely epigraphic post-Reform dirhams. The bust on the obverse has the same helmet as the standing figure on the reverse, and does have the governor's name before it, but in other respects the personal features of the bust are stereotypical and derived from their Sasanian prototype. It seems more likely that the figure is in fact the caliph himself, even though he is not labelled as on the celebrated 'Standing Caliph' drachms struck at Damascus in 75h.

The obverse bust and the standing warrior on the reverse both sport the same distinctive pointed helmet, topped with what Walker termed a 'weather-vane' crest. There are plenty of precedents for this type of helmet both in Byzantium and the East, but it is exceptional and significant that the Sasanian royal bust on this coin should wear a military helmet rather than a crown. The impression is that the coin has a specific military purpose or significance, which the governor who issued it wanted to make as clear as possible.

Yazid b. al-Muhallab succeeded his father, al-Muhallab b. Abi Sufra, as governor of Khurasan following the latter's death in 82h. He had previously issued regular Arab-Sasanian drachms at six different mints in Kirman, all dated 78h (SICA 1, p.29, note 187), but otherwise does not appear on the coinage until this type was struck six years later. Walker, who read the mint-signature as HURA (for Khurasan) but otherwise interpreted the difficult and complicated legends remarkably well, tells us that *'the Ephthalite leader Nizak...was actually besieged in his fortress at Badhghis, in Khurasan, by Yazid in the same year as that of our coin. All his treasures fell to Yazid after his capitulation. So Ephthalite tribute money is quite in historical perspective.'* This, Walker suggests, explains the reference to *jizya* in the reverse margin. He notes further that, while the terms *jizya* and *kharaj* were used in later times to mean a personal tax and a land-tax respectively, *'in the early days of Islam they were interchangeable terms denoting tribute generally...According to Tabari, in Khurasan jizya was always said and not kharaj.'*

Walker is surely right to link this issue with the siege of Badhghis and the capture of Nizak, but his suggestion of 'tribute money' presents some problems. Firstly, there is the definition: would 'tribute money' be struck by the Ephthalites to pay tribute to the victorious Muslims, or be struck by the Muslims themselves from the plunder of Badhghis to be sent back to Damascus? Neither of these seems satisfactory, and we know from other sources that the Muslims were happy to send plunder captured from non-Islamic peoples back to the capital in whatever form it was taken (including idols). Therefore, instead of being some kind of 'tribute coinage', it seems plausible to suggest that these coins were struck by the victorious Muslims to circulate locally. This would explain why the legends are given not only in Arabic and Pahlawi but also in the Ephthalite script, with the threatening warrior on the reverse placed there as an explicit warning and reminder to the defeated Ephthalites. With this in mind, if we then interpret the word *jizya* in its more usual sense of a poll-tax levied on non-Muslim subjects, such as the Ephthalites, we can envisage the Muslims requiring payment of this tax in a type of coin which was acceptable to them. With its traditional Arab-Sasanian Pahlawi mint and date, and other legends in both Arabic and Ephthalite, the present coin would fit that purpose admirably, while also being a highly symbolic token of Muslim military superiority.



14

OGHUZ RULERS OF SYR DARIYA, NAMIJ JABUYA AND 'ABDALLAH B. TAHIR

Billon drachm, without mint-name or date

OBVERSE:	Bust to right; before: <i>'Abdallah b. Tahir</i>
REVERSE:	Horseman riding right, holding bow; above horse's rump: <i>Namij Jabuya</i>
WEIGHT:	1.14g
REFERENCE:	Goncharov and Nastich type 3
CONDITION:	<i>Dark surfaces, very fine and extremely rare</i>
ESTIMATE:	£1,200-1,500



15

UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)

Dinar, without mint name, 105h

REVERSE: In margin: pellet below *b* of *duriba*
 WEIGHT: 4.26g
 REFERENCE: Walker 224
 CONDITION: *About extremely fine*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000



16

UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)

Dinar, without mint name, 107h

REVERSE: In field: two pellets below *y* of *yulad*
 WEIGHT: 4.24g
 REFERENCE: Walker 227
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £7,000-10,000



17

UMAYYAD, TEMP. IBRAHIM (126-127h)

Dinar, without mint name, 127h

WEIGHT: 3.54g
 REFERENCE: Walker 247
 CONDITION: *Clipped, almost very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000



18

UMAYYAD, TEMP. MARWAN II (127-132h)

Dinar, without mint name, 132h

WEIGHT: 4.25g
 REFERENCE: Walker 252
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-7,000



19

UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)

Dirham, Arran 90h

WEIGHT: 1.96g
 REFERENCES: Klat 27 (three examples listed); SCC –
 CONDITION: *Clipped, fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £6,000-8,000



20

UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)

Dirham, Arminiya 113h

OBVERSE: annulets ☉☉☉
 REVERSE: In field: pellet below
 WEIGHT: 2.82g
 REFERENCES: Klat -; SCC -
 CONDITION: *Toned, very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £12,000-15,000



21

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'UMAR (99-101h)

Dirham, Ifriqiya 100h

OBVERSE: In margin: pellet below *dh of hadha al-dirham*
 WEIGHT: 2.25g (including fragment)
 REFERENCES: Klat -; cf Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 19, 25 April 2012, lot 39, *same obverse die*
 CONDITION: *Cleaned, edge chipped and one small piece broken away, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-7,000



22

UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)
Dirham, Ifriqiya 124h

OBVERSE: annulets ☉☉☉☉
 REVERSE: In field: crescent below
 WEIGHT: 2.59g
 REFERENCE: Klat 108.b (two examples listed); SCC -
 CONDITION: *Some staining and two small edge chips, otherwise almost very fine and very rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



23

UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)
Dirham, al-Andalus 112h

OBVERSE: annulets ☉☉☉☉; marginal legend roughly square
 REVERSE: annulets oo oo oo oo
 WEIGHT: 2.72g
 REFERENCES: Klat 125.c *var.*; SCC-
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare, apparently an unpublished variety*
 ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Klat lists three different varieties of al-Andalus dirhams for this year. The present specimen appears to be a hybrid: the four paired reverse annulets are found on Klat 125.a and 125.b, but the distinctive square marginal legend on the obverse is only found on Klat 125.c, which has four plain annulets on the reverse.



24

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)
Dirham, Anibar 81h

OBVERSE: In margin: *bismillah duriba hadha al-dirham bi-Anibar fi sanat...*
 REVERSE: In field: *wa* at beginning of third line
 WEIGHT: 2.83g
 REFERENCE: Klat 139; Walker 309, *same dies*
 CONDITION: *Obverse flan lamination, good very fine and very rare*
 ESTIMATE: £15,000-20,000



‡25

UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)

Dirham, al-Bab 115h

OBVERSE: annulets ○○○○
 WEIGHT: 2.55g
 REFERENCES: Klat 143; SCC -
 CONDITION: *Minor marks and scuffs, good fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



26

UMAYYAD, TEMP. AL-WALID I (86-96h)

Dirham, al-Jazira 95h

WEIGHT: 2.92g
 REFERENCES: Klat 220; SCC 485
 CONDITION: *Cleaned, otherwise extremely fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000



‡27

UMAYYAD, TEMP. YAZID II (101-105h)

Dirham, Jayy 102h

WEIGHT: 2.48g
 REFERENCES: Klat 267 (three examples listed), *same dies as illustrated piece*; SCC –
 CONDITION: *Some staining, good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,500



28

UMAYYAD, TEMP. YAZID II (101-105h)

Dirham, Sijistan 102h

OBVERSE: In place of annulets: annulet and triplet of pellets, followed by four unread words (possibly *khayr* or *bakh?*)
 REVERSE: In field: three pellets below
 WEIGHT: 2.61g
 REFERENCES: Klat 444.1 (a single example from the same dies); SCC -
 CONDITION: *Some deposit, almost very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE £3,000-4,000

NOTE: Instead of a regular pattern of annulets on the obverse, this unusual issue appears to have an outer border different from any other known for the Umayyad silver coinage. It clearly begins with a single annulet and three pellets positioned at roughly 12 o'clock, but after this come four symbols which appear to be either individual letters or short words. Klat illustrates a specimen in Tübingen where the border is a little clearer than on the present coin, and suggests that all four other words or characters are identical. They may in fact be different individual letters which might spell a name if taken together, but unfortunately neither this coin nor Klat's scan is sufficiently clear to suggest what this might be.



‡29

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Dirham, al-Furat 83h

WEIGHT: 2.60g
 REFERENCES: Klat 505; SCC -
 CONDITION: *Almost very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



30

UMAYYAD, TEMP. HISHAM (105-125h)

Dirham, al-Mubarak 107h

OBVERSE: Chain border; two concentric circles instead of three
 REVERSE: Border of pellets (instead of usual annulets)
 WEIGHT: 2.64g
 REFERENCES: Klat 570 (four examples listed); SCC -
 CONDITION: *Cleaned, some spots of staining remaining, very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000

NOTE: The chain and pelleted borders seen on this piece are only found on al-Mubarak dirhams of 107h and 108h.



‡31

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Dirham, Maysan 82h

WEIGHT: 2.53g
 REFERENCES: Klat 631; SCC –
 CONDITION: *Toned, very fine, reverse a little weakly struck*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



32

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Dirham, Nahr Tira 81h

WEIGHT: 2.82g
 REFERENCES: Klat 639; SCC -273
 CONDITION: *Cleaned, good very fine/very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



33

UMAYYAD, TEMP. 'ABD AL-MALIK B. MARWAN (65-86h)

Circular bronze weight, naming al-Hajjaj b. Yusuf (40-95h)

OBVERSE: In three lines, within incised circle: *Allah yawman | al-Hajjaj | mukhlasan*
 REVERSE: In two lines: *dirhamayn | wazn sila'at*
 WEIGHT: 5.65g
 CONDITION: *Dark patina and scattered spotting, very fine and of the highest rarity*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

NOTE: The legends on this unpublished weight translate as:

'In Allah believes
 al-Hajjaj
 faithfully'

'Two dirhams
 weight for goods.'



34

REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD, AL-KIRMANI B. 'ALI (fl. 127-128h)

Dirham, Marw 128h

OBVERSE: Between annulets: *mimma amr bihi* ☉ *al-amir* ☉ *al-Kirmani* ☉ *bin 'Ali* ☉
 WEIGHT: 2.48g
 REFERENCES: Klat 603 (three examples listed); SCC 772, *same obverse die*; Wurtzel 30; Album A208 RRR
 CONDITION: *Small edge chip and deposit on reverse, some excess metal on obverse where staining has been removed, otherwise almost very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000



35

ABBASID, TEMP. AL-SAFFAH (132-136h)

Dinar, without mint-name, 132h

WEIGHT: 4.09g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 51; Lowick 177
 CONDITION: *Minor marks, very fine or better and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-7,000



36

ABBASID, TEMP. AL-SAFFAH (132-136h)

Dinar, without mint-name, 132h

WEIGHT: 4.26g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 51; Lowick 177
 CONDITION: *Spademark in reverse field, minor edge marks and flan very slightly buckled, otherwise very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000



Lot 35 (fine style)
reverse, detail



Lot 36 (coarser style)
reverse, detail

NOTE:

Abbasid dinars of 132h have long been appreciated both for their rarity - fewer examples are known than of the celebrated Umayyad 'year 77' dinar - and historical significance, being the first gold coins struck by this long-lived dynasty. Although very rare today, these coins can nevertheless be grouped into two types on stylistic ground and it has been suggested that this may reflect the work of two different workshops or even mints. The first, characterized by neater and finer calligraphy, is represented here by lot 35, while lot 36 is of the second type with engraving of coarser style.



37

ABBASID, AL-RASHID (170-193h)

Dinar, without mint-name (Baghdad), 171h

REVERSE: In field: *Muhammad rasul Allah | mimma amr bihi 'Abdallah | Harun amir al-mu'minin*

WEIGHT: 3.95g

REFERENCES: Lowick 366; Bernardi 58b

CONDITION: *Pin marks on reverse, lightly clipped, good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



38

ABBASID, TEMP. AL-MA'MUN

Dinar, without mint-name, 204h

OBVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | Muhammad*

REVERSE: In field: *Muhammad | rasul | Allah | pellet*

WEIGHT: 3.80g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 112 (three examples listed)

CONDITION: *Lightly clipped, otherwise very fine or better and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



39

ABBASID, TEMP. AL-MA'MUN

Dinar, reform type, without mint-name, 206h

WEIGHT: 4.22g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 116; *Treasures of Islam* 422, same dies

CONDITION: *Buckled flan, old scrapes on reverse, otherwise better than very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200

NOTE: This is the earliest date for the reformed type of dinar, introduced by al-Ma'mun as part of his plans to standardize the legends on the gold and silver coinage throughout the Islamic lands.



40

ABBASID, TEMP. AL-MA'MUN

Dinar, Misr 214h

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | Abu Ishaq*
 WEIGHT: 4.16g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 118DE
 CONDITION: *Small patches of deposit, about very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: The individual named as 'Abu Ishaq' on the reverse of this type is the future caliph al-Mu'tasim (218-227h).



41

ABBASID, AL-MU'TASIM (218-227h)

Dinar, Dimashq 225h

WEIGHT: 4.05g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 151Ge (three examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Lightly clipped, fine and a rare early date for the mint*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



42

ABBASID, AL-MU'TASIM (218-227h)

Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 223h

WEIGHT: 4.21g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 151Mh (one example listed) = Cairo 1218
 CONDITION: *Small punchmark on reverse, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: This is the earliest date in which gold dinars were struck at al-Muhammadiya.



43

ABBASID, AL-MU'TASIM (218-227h)

Dinar, Marw 223h

WEIGHT: 4.22g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 151Ph (one example listed)
 CONDITION: *Softly struck, almost very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



44

ABBASID, AL-MU'TASIM (218-227h)

Dinar, Marw 226h

WEIGHT: 3.93g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 151Ph (two examples listed); Cairo 1224, *same obverse die*
 CONDITION: *Flan fault, otherwise about very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £800-1,200



45

ABBASID, AL-WATHIQ (227-232h)

Dinar, Dimashq 230h

WEIGHT: 4.09g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 152Ge (one example listed) = Qatar I: 1184 (wrongly described as a coin of 227h in the English edition but the date correctly given as 230h in the Arabic version)
 CONDITION: *Lightly clipped and some scratches in fields, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



46

ABBASID, AL-WATHIQ (227-232h)

Dinar, Marw 227h

WEIGHT: 4.20g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 152Ph (two examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Buckled flan, good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £700-1,000



47

ABBASID, AL-MUTAWAKKIL (232-247h)

Dinar, Surra man ra'a 236h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Abu 'Abdallah*
 WEIGHT: 4.12g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 157Jc (two examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: The mint of Surra man ra'a produced dinars on two different types of flan at this period: donative issues, struck on a broad and thinner flan with wide margins (allowing the piece to be mounted without defacing the legends), and coins on narrower, thicker flans such as that offered here.



48

ABBASID, AL-MUTAWAKKIL (232-247h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Mutawakkiliya 247h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Mu'tazz billah*
 WEIGHT: 4.19g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 158Jj

CONDITION: *Pin marks on reverse, very fine or better and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200

NOTE: This is the only year in which dinars were struck at the mint of Madinat al-Mutawakkiliya.



49

ABBASID, AL-MUTAWAKKIL (232-247h)

Dinar, Marw 234h

OBVERSE: without name of heir
 WEIGHT: 4.23g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 155Ph, *this piece cited*
 CONDITION: *Good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500

PROVENANCE: Ex Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 10, 20 July 2005, lot 94.



50

ABBASID, AL-MUTAWAKKIL (232-247h)

Donative dirham with broad margins, Surra man ra'a 246h

WEIGHT: 2.93g
 REFERENCE: Ilisch DI 11
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



51

ABBASID, AL-MUSTA'IN (248-251h)

Dinar, al-Shash 249h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-'Abbas b. | Amir al-mu'minin*
 WEIGHT: 4.21g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 161Qf (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Fair to fine and excessively rare, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



52

ABBASID, AL-MUSTA'IN (248-251h)

Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 248h

OBVERSE: without name of heir in field
 WEIGHT: 4.38g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 160Mh; Miles, *Rayy* –
 CONDITION: *Light crease, some scattered marks, almost very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



53

ABBASID, AL-MUHTADI (255-256h)

Dinar, Surra man ra'a 256h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Muhtadi billah*
 WEIGHT: 4.20g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 165Jc (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Lightly creased and with some weakness, good fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000

NOTE: Of the six mints known to have been active during al-Muhtadi's short reign, Bernardi only knew of two which were still striking coins in 256h.



54

ABBASID, AL-MUHTADI (255-256h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 255h

WEIGHT: 4.19g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 165Jh
 CONDITION: *Light deposit, very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



55

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, al-Ahwaz 262h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 WEIGHT: 4.38g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 177Nd (one example listed) = Emirates Coin Auction 1, Dubai, 21 March 1999, lot 214, *same dies*; Morton and Eden auction 69, 10 April 2014, lot 37, *same dies*
 CONDITION: *Weak areas in upper fields on both sides, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: The mint-name on this specimen has been recut on the die. Enough remains of the undertype to show that it contained a long 'box' letter, but it is now difficult to suggest what the original mint-name might have been. The most likely candidate might seem to be al-Basra, although no other dinars of this type are known from Basra, which in any case had been sacked by the Zanj rebels five years previously.



56

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, al-Ahwaz 272h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-nasir li-din Allah | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-llah | letter ba*
 WEIGHT: 4.04g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 180Nd (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Bernardi does record two dinars of al-Ahwaz 272h but assigns them both to his type 177, which omits the additional honorific *al-nasir li-din Allah*. Of these, one was sold by Sotheby's in April 1992 as lot 330; it was not illustrated and given only the brief description 'with al-Mu'tamid and al-Muwaffaq'. The other specimen was part of the collection of Gerson da Cunha, published in Bombay in 1888. Without illustrations or proper descriptions, it is not possible to say for certain whether either or both of these coins should be classified as type 177 (as Bernardi lists them) or type 180.



57

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Hulwan 258h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Ja'far*
 WEIGHT: 3.23g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 173Mw (two examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Fair to fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: This is the only recorded year in which Abbasid gold was struck at Hulwan.



58

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, al-Rahba 275h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 WEIGHT: 3.67g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 177Hm, *this piece*
 CONDITION: *Crinkled flan, good very fine and extremely rare, apparently the only published example*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

PROVENANCE: Ex Sotheby's auction, 9 April 1992, lot 334



59

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, al-Rafiqa 262h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Mufawwad illa'-llah*
 WEIGHT: 3.25g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 175Hn (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Cancellation marks in margins on both sides (made by using a curved punch to obliterate the circular legend), otherwise fine and extremely rare, the date apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



60

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Surra man ra'a 256h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Ja'far*
 WEIGHT: 4.05g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 173Jc (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Clipped, otherwise good fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



61

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Surra man ra'a 268h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Mufawwad illa'-llah*
 REVERSE: In field: letter *ha* below
 WEIGHT: 4.14g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 175Jc (date not listed); cf Morton and Eden auction 72, 16 December 2014, lot 654
 CONDITION: *Minor marks and a few small spots of deposit, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



62



66



72



62

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Qarqisiya 264h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Mufawwad illa'-llah*
 WEIGHT: 3.95g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 175Hk = Sotheby's auction, May 2001, lot 1003, *same dies*
 CONDITION: *Small flan crack, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £7,000-10,000

NOTE: Qarqisiya, formerly the ancient Circesium on the Euphrates, is one of the rarest mints for Abbasid gold.



63

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 268h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala'-llah*
 WEIGHT: 4.11g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 177Jh (one example listed)
 CONDITION: *Slightly wavy flan and some weak striking, fine and a very rare date*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



64

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 275h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-nasir li-din Allah | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala'-llah | Ahmad b. al-Muwaffaq billah*
 WEIGHT: 4.25g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 184Jh
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine*

ESTIMATE £1,000-1,200



65

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 279h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Mu'tadid billah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah*
 WEIGHT: 4.14g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 187Jm RRR (one example listed)
 CONDITION: *About very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



66

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Muwaffaqiya 270h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah | Dhu'l-Wizaratayn*
 WEIGHT: 3.97g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 178Ep (two examples listed); Artuk 362, *same dies*
 CONDITION: *Obverse scrapes, good very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

NOTE: A rare issue from the short-lived mint of Madinat al-Muwaffaqiya, established by al-Muwaffaq as a base for his operations against the Zanj rebellion.



67

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Wasit 258h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Ja'far*
 WEIGHT: 3.55g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 173Jm (two examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



68

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Wasit 271h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-nasir li-din Allah | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah | Dhu'l-Wizaratayn*
 WEIGHT: 4.20g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 179Jm RRR (one example listed)
 CONDITION: *Light deposit and minor marks, good very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



69

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Wasit 276h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-nasir li-din Allah | al-Muwaffaq billah*
 To right, above, and to left: *al-quwwa – lillah – jami'an*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah | Ahmad b. al-Muwaffaq billah*
 To right, above, and to left: *al-quwwa – lillah – jami'an*
 WEIGHT: 3.99g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 186Jm; *Treasures of Islam* 424, same dies
 CONDITION: *Wavy flan, very fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



70

ABBASID, AL-MU'TAMID (256-279h)

Dinar, Wasit 278h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Mu'tadid billah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah*
 WEIGHT: 4.14g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 187Jm RRR (one example listed)
 CONDITION: *About very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



71

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, al-Rafiqa 288h

WEIGHT: 4.15g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 211Hn (two examples listed)

CONDITION: *Edge marks and scratches in reverse field, very fine or better and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



72

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Ra's al-'Ayn 289h

WEIGHT: 4.17g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 211Hl (date not listed)

CONDITION: *Edge crimp, otherwise good very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently an unpublished date for this extremely rare Abbasid gold mint*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-5,000



73

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Samarkand 281h

REVERSE: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tadid billah | letter sin*

WEIGHT: 3.66g

REFERENCES: Bernardi 211Qe, *this piece*

CONDITION: *Edge clip, otherwise very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

PROVENANCE: Ex Stephen Album Rare Coins auction 7, 5 December 2009, lot 120.

NOTE: This is the last purely Abbasid dinar from the famous city of Samarkand, which also struck gold issues naming the Samanid ruler Isma'il b. Ahmad in this year (see Bernardi 220Qe).



74

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Mah al-Kufa 280h

WEIGHT: 4.50g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 211Mr = Sotheby's auction, 10 April 1992, lot 337, *this piece?*
 CONDITION: *About very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200

NOTE: This specimen is likely to be the coin offered at Sotheby's in 1992, which is also the only coin of this mint and date listed by Bernardi. It was not illustrated, but the weights given are identical.



75

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 280h

WEIGHT: 4.08g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 211Jh
 CONDITION: *Pin marks in fields, very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



76

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 282h

WEIGHT: 4.33g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 211Jh (two examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Good fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



79



83



89



77

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Nisibin 288h

WEIGHT: 4.58g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 211Hg (two examples listed; the specimen cited from *Centuries of Gold* is in fact a coin of Harran); Qatar I: 1296, *same obverse die*

CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000



78

ABBASID, AL-MU'TADID (279-289h)

Dinar, Hamadhan 289h

WEIGHT: 4.13g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 211Mu, *this piece cited*

CONDITION: *Pierced, about very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £800-1,200

PROVENANCE: Ex Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 12, 25 April 2007, lot 3178



79

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Amid 292h

WEIGHT: 4.26g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Ha RRR, citing a single specimen in the British Museum

CONDITION: *Small spot of staining, some minor marginal weakness, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-7,000



80

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Harran 290h

WEIGHT: 3.84g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Hj
 CONDITION: *Edge shaved, very fine to good very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



81

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Dimashq 293h

WEIGHT: 4.08g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Ge
 CONDITION: *Good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



82

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, al-Rafiq 293h

OBVERSE: In field: pellet above, two pellets below
 WEIGHT: 4.27g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 226Hn; Qatar I: 1303
 CONDITION: *Good very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



‡83

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Suq al-Ahwaz 289h

WEIGHT: 3.62g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi type 226 (mint unrecorded in gold for this caliph); cf NGSA auction 8, 24 November 2014, lot 254, same dies
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,500-4,500



84

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Qumm 292h

WEIGHT: 3.82g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Mn, citing a single example in Berlin
 CONDITION: *Flan lamination on obverse, good fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



85

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Qumm 293h

WEIGHT: 3.00g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Mn, citing a single example mentioned by Zambaur
 CONDITION: *About very fine for issue and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



86

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Mah al-Basra 292h

WEIGHT: 4.04g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Mq (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Good fine and of the highest rarity, apparently an unrecorded date for the mint*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000



87

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Mah al-Kufa 291h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | wali al-dawla*
 REVERSE: In field: three pellets positioned to left, right and between the two *l*'s of *lillah*
 WEIGHT: 3.51g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 228Mr (one example listed) = Munzel, K., 'Beiträge zur islamischen Numismatik I', *JNG* 1972, pp.103-111, coin 12 = Sotheby's auction, 23 April 1998, lot 44
 CONDITION: *Some marginal weakness, very fine and extremely rare*
 ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,500
 NOTE: The Munzel specimen is struck from different dies and also does not have the three pellets in the reverse field observed on the present piece.



88

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 293h

WEIGHT: 4.08g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Mh (one example cited)
 CONDITION: *Very fine and extremely rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



89

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, al-Masisa 290h

WEIGHT: 3.55g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Fd (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and of the highest rarity, an unpublished date for this very rare Abbasid mint*
 ESTIMATE: £7,000-9,000



90

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, al-Masisa 291h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | wali al-dawla*
 WEIGHT: 2.21g
 REFERENCE: Unpublished; cf Bernardi type 228
 CONDITION: *Clipped and pierced, poor to fair only but with mint and date clear and of the highest rarity*

ESTIMATE: £800-1,200



‡91

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Wasit 291h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | wali al-dawla*
 WEIGHT: 4.06g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 228Jm RRR (two examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



‡92

ABBASID, AL-MUKTAFI (289-295h)

Dinar, Wasit 293h

WEIGHT: 4.33g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 226Jm RRR (a single example listed)
 CONDITION: *Light deposit, almost extremely fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



93

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Ardabil 319h

OBVERSE: In field: ornament | *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | Abu'l-'Abbas b. | Amir al-Mu'minin*
 WEIGHT: 4.15g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 242Ka (one example listed) = *Centuries of Gold* 115, same dies
 CONDITION: *Some edge damage and crudely struck, fine for issue and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



94

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Harran 305h

WEIGHT: 4.34g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 242Hj (date not listed)

CONDITION: *Very fine or better, apparently an unrecorded date for this rare mint*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000



95

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Dimashq 309h

WEIGHT: 4.15g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 242 Ge (date not listed)

CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare, apparently an unpublished date for the mint*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-6,000



96

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, al-Rafiqa 304h

WEIGHT: 3.13g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 242Hn (date not listed)

CONDITION: *Light deposit, flan lamination on reverse margin (with corresponding part of obverse margin not fully struck up), otherwise better than very fine and extremely rare, the date apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,500



97

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, al-Rafiqa 307h

WEIGHT: 2.83g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 242Hn (date not listed)

CONDITION: *Light scratches, otherwise very fine or better and extremely rare, apparently an unpublished date for the mint*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,500



98



101



98

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Donative dinar with broad margins, Madinat al-Salam 303h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Abu'l-'Abbas b. | Amir al-Mu'minin*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Muqtadir billah | letter ha*
 WEIGHT: 4.05g
 REFERENCES: Ilisch -; Bernardi 272Jh; cf Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 4, 8 May 2002, lot 125, *same dies*
 CONDITION: *Scratch in obverse border at 6 o'clock, otherwise extremely fine and lustrous*

ESTIMATE: £8,000-12,000



99

ABBASID, AL-MUQTADIR (295-320h)

Dinar, Hamadhan 301h

WEIGHT: 4.21g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 242Mu (date not listed)
 CONDITION: *Edge clip, good fine and extremely rare, apparently an unpublished date for the mint*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



100

ABBASID, AL-RADI (322-329h)

Dinar, Ardabil 327h

OBVERSE: In field: ornament above, letter *ha* below
 REVERSE: In field: pellet by *lillah*, ornament below
 WEIGHT: 4.47g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 285Ka RRR, *this coin cited*
 CONDITION: *Some marginal weakness, good fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500

PROVENANCE: Ex Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 10, 20 July 2005, lot 135



‡101

ABBASID/HAMDANID, AL-MUTTAQI (329-333h)
Donative fractional dinar, without mint or date

OBVERSE: In margin: *bismillah Nasir al-dawla Abu Muhammad*
 In field: *Muhammad | rasul | Allah*
 REVERSE: In margin: *la ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah Sali allah 'alayhi*
 In field: *al-Muttaqi | lillah*
 WEIGHT: 2.04g (including mount and loop)
 CONDITION: *With ancient gold loop-mount and ring, some deposit and on a wavy flan, almost very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished*
 ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,500



102

ABBASID, AL-MUTTAQI (329-333h)
Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 329h

OBVERSE: In field: letter *mim* | *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Abu'l Hasan Bajkam | mawla Amir al-Mu'minin*
 WEIGHT: 4.37g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 309Jh
 CONDITION: *Extremely fine and lustrous*
 ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



103

ABBASID, AL-MUTTAQI (329-333h)
Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 330h

OBVERSE: In field: letter *mim* | *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Abu Mansur b. | Amir al-Mu'minin*
 REVERSE: In field: letter *ha* below
 WEIGHT: 3.28g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 308Jh
 CONDITION: *Good fine*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



104

ABBASID, AL-MUTTAQI (329-333h)

Dinar, Wasit 329h

OBVERSE: In field: letter *ha* | *la ilaha illa* | *Allah wahdahu* | *la sharik lahu* | *Abu'l-Hasan Bajkam* | *mawla Amir al-Mu'minin*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah* | *Muhammad* | *rasul* | *Allah* | *al-Muttaqi lillah*
 WEIGHT: 4.05g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi 309Jm
 CONDITION: *Double-struck on obverse, very fine*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



105

ABBASID, AL-MUTTAQI (329-333h)

Dirham, Zabid 330h

WEIGHT: 3.04g
 REFERENCES: cf Peus auction 386, 26 April 2006, lot 1049, *same dies*; cf SICA 10: 72 [331h];
 CONDITION: *Cleaned, small edge chip, almost extremely fine and extremely rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



106

ABBASID, AL-MUTTI' (334-363h)

Amiri Dinar, San'a 340h

OBVERSE: mint-name in outer border
 REVERSE: *mimma amr – bihi al-amir* in outer border
 WEIGHT: 1.59g
 REFERENCE: Bikhazi 156
 CONDITION: *Good very fine, rare*
 ESTIMATE: £700-1,000



107

ABBASID, AL-MUSTANSIR (623-640h)

Dinar, Irbil 632h

OBVERSE: In field: *al-Imam | la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | al-Mustansir billah | Amir al-Mu'minin*
 REVERSE: In field, within double cable border: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | Sali Allah 'alayhi*
 WEIGHT: 8.03g
 REFERENCE: Lavoix 1306
 CONDITION: *A typically crude striking on an irregular flan, scrape on obverse, good fine for issue and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



108

UMAYYAD OF SPAIN, 'ABD AL-RAHMAN III (300-350h)

Dinar, al-Andalus 321h

OBVERSE: In field: *al-Imam | la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | Muhammad rasul Allah | Muhammad*
 WEIGHT: 3.97g
 REFERENCE: CUS 200a
 CONDITION: *Very fine, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



109

SPAIN, CASTILLE, ALFONSO VIII (AD 1158-1214)

Dobla, Tulaytula (Toledo), year 1250 Safar

WEIGHT: 3.82g
 REFERENCE: Cy 1041
 CONDITION: *Almost extremely very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



110

AGHLABID, AL-AGHLAB B. IBRAHIM (223-226h)

Dirham, Ifriqiya 224h

REVERSE: In field: *Ghalib* above; *al-Aghlab* below
 WEIGHT: 2.44g
 REFERENCES: al'Ush –; Album –
 CONDITION: *Chipped and stained, fair to fine and of the highest rarity*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200

NOTE: Neither al-'Ush nor Album records any silver for the short reign of al-Aghlab.



111

TULUNID, KHUMARAWAYH B. AHMAD (270-282h)

Dinar, Tarsus 278h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Mufawwad illa'-llah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu'tamid 'ala-'llah | Khumarawayh bin Ahmad*
 WEIGHT: 4.20g
 REFERENCE: Bernardi type 193 (unrecorded for this mint)
 CONDITION: *Good very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £4,000-6,000

NOTE: This appears to be the first published Tulunid dinar from the very rare mint of Tarsus, as well as being the earliest recorded gold issue of any dynasty to have been struck there.



112

TULUNID, HARUN B. KHUMARAWAYH (283-292h)

Dinar, Filastin 289h

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul | Allah | al-Mu 'tadid billah | Harun bin Khumarawayh*
 WEIGHT: 3.87g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 215Gn (citing a single example); Grabar –
 CONDITION: *Good very fine, a slightly soft striking, extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Dinars of this mint and date are also known for the caliph al-Muktafi (see Bernardi 230Gn).



113

QARMATID, ALPTEKIN ABU MANSUR AL-MU'IZZI (fl. 364-367h)

Dinar, Filastin 366h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | al-Ta'i lillah | al-sayyid al-ra'is*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | sali Allah 'alayhi | al-sayyid Ja'far bin al-Fadl | Abu Mansur al-Mu'izzi*
 WEIGHT: 4.18g
 REFERENCES: Vardanyan 27; *Centuries of Gold* 154, same dies
 CONDITION: Pierced and with edge clip, otherwise very fine and very rare
 ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000

NOTE: Vardanyan's study gives a clear account of the career of Alptekin Abu Mansur al-Mu'izzi, whose name appears on both the Qarmatid coins offered in this sale (see also lot 114). He had been a commander with in the Turkish guard at the Buwayhid court but became involved in a failed coup against the Buwayhid ruler 'Izz al-Dawla and subsequently fled to Syria. By 364h he was in control of Damascus, where he met and joined forces with the Qarmatids, and their combined forces took Tabariya in the following year. Lot 113 shows that by 366h Alptekin acknowledged the Qarmatid Council and also Ja'far b. al-Fadl as its leader, but following further changes within the Council's make-up later in 366h Ja'far was no longer named directly on the coinage. The unpublished dirham described below (lot 114), where Alptekin's name appears without that of a Qarmatid, perhaps reflects the confused hierarchy within the Qarmatid state.

Alptekin was finally defeated by a Fatimid army in 368h and taken to Egypt, where he was poisoned.



114

QARMATID, ALPTEKIN ABU MANSUR AL-MU'IZZI (fl. 364-367h)

Dirham, Filastin 367h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Abu Mansur al-Mu'izzi*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | sali Allah 'alayhi | wa 'Ali lillah | al-Ta'i lillah*
 WEIGHT: 3.26g
 REFERENCES: Album 687 RR; cf Vardanyan 32 (also citing the Chief Sayyids)
 CONDITION: Some weak striking, fine to good fine and of the highest rarity
 ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: See footnote to previous lot.



115

FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)

Dinar, al-Qayrawan 302h

WEIGHT: 3.97g
 REFERENCE: Nicol 28
 CONDITION: Fine, rare
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



116

FATIMID, AL-MAHDI (297-322h)

Dinar, al-Mahdiya 311h

WEIGHT: 4.19g
REFERENCE: Nicol 56
CONDITION: *Good very fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



117

FATIMID, AL-MANSUR (334-341h)

Dinar, al-Mahdiya 337h, month of Rabi' al-Akhir

WEIGHT: 4.20g
REFERENCE: Nicol 232, *this coin cited*
CONDITION: *Very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



118

FATIMID, TEMP. AL-MU'IZZ (341-365h)

Medallic dirham, Misr, undated

OBVERSE: In margin: *bismillah – duriba bi-Misr*
In centre: *al-'Izzat*
REVERSE: In margin: *Muhammad – rasul – Allah*
In centre: *Lillah*
WEIGHT: 2.06g
CONDITION: *Fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000

NOTE: The central inscription, *al-'izzat lillah*, appears to place this remarkable piece as a Fatimid issue since the phrase is also found in the centres of gold and silver issues of al-Mu'izz (see Nicol types H1, H2 and H3).



119

FATIMID, AL-MU'IZZ (341-365h)

Half dirham, Madinat Barqa 347h

WEIGHT: 1.39g
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 265 [dated 348h]
 CONDITION: *Holed and with flan split, otherwise almost very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £700-1,000

NOTE: This appears to be the earliest known Fatimid dirham from the extremely rare mint of Barqa, the classical mint of Barce in Cyrenaica.



120

FATIMID, AL-MU'IZZ (341-365h)

Half dirham, Barqa 358h

WEIGHT: 1.37g
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 268 [dated 354h]
 CONDITION: *Fine to good fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



121

FATIMID, AL-MU'IZZ (341-365h)

Dirham, Misr 358h

OBVERSE: In outer margin: *bismillah duriba hadha al-dirham bi-Misr sanat thaman wa khamsin wa thalatha mi'at*
 In inner margin: *al-Mu'izz li-din Allah amir al-mu'minin*
 REVERSE: In outer margin: *wa 'Ali al-afdal al-wasiyyin wa wazir khayr al-mursilin*
 In inner margin: *la ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah*
 WEIGHT: 2.74g
 REFERENCE: Unpublished
 CONDITION: *Flan cracks, almost very fine and of the highest rarity*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500

NOTE: This unpublished coin is the earliest known Fatimid silver dirham from Egypt.



122

FATIMID, AL-‘AZIZ (365-386h)

Dinar, Filastin 380h

WEIGHT: 3.38g
REFERENCE: Nicol 680
CONDITION: *About fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



123

FATIMID, AL-HAKIM (386-411h)

Dinar, al-Mahdiya 387h

OBVERSE: In margin: Qur‘an 6:115 (outer); mint/date formula (inner)
REVERSE: In margin: Qur‘an 4:54 (outer); Qur‘an 9:33 (inner)
WEIGHT: 4.18g
REFERENCES: Nicol 1208 = Qatar II: 2496 (*same dies*)
CONDITION: *Minor edge marks, very fine or better and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: This one-year type is only known for gold and silver issues from al-Mahdiya in this year. The additional verses from the Qur‘an translate as ‘*The laws of your Lord are perfect in truth and justice and his laws cannot be changed; he is all-seeing and all knowing*’ (6:115) and ‘*Are they so jealous of others for what God in His generosity has given to them? So We had given the Book and the Law to Abraham’s family, and given them great power*’ (4:54)



124

FATIMID, AL-ZAHIR (411-427h)

Dinar, Misr 420h

OBVERSE: In centre: ‘*adl*’ (also in centre of reverse)
WEIGHT: 4.27g
REFERENCE: Nicol 1524
CONDITION: *Minor edge marks, very fine to good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



125

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)
Dinar, Halab 446h

WEIGHT: 3.09g
 REFERENCE: Nicol 1710
 CONDITION: *Good very fine, a little weakly struck in outer margins*
 ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



126

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)
Dinar, Dimashq 433h

WEIGHT: 3.23g
 REFERENCE: cf Nicol 1723 [435h]
 CONDITION: *Edge shaved, reverse double-struck, very fine or better and excessively rare, apparently unpublished*
 ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000
 NOTE: Nicol lists no dinars from Damascus for the years between 429h and 435h.



127

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)
Dinar, Dimashq 459h

WEIGHT: 3.85g
 REFERENCE: Nicol 1736 (two examples listed)
 CONDITION: *Some deposit, very fine and a very rare date*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



128

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)
Dinar, Tabariya 436h

WEIGHT: 4.29g
 REFERENCE: Nicol 1973
 CONDITION: *Centres a little weak and scrape on obverse, fine to good fine and rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



129

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)

Dinar, Tabariya 439h

WEIGHT: 4.27g
 REFERENCE: Nicol 1976
 CONDITION: *Some weakness in margins, very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



130

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h), REVOLT OF AL-BASASIRI (450-451h)

Dinar, Madinat al-Salam 451h

OBVERSE: letter 'ayn in inner border at 12 o'clock
 WEIGHT: 4.13g
 REFERENCE: Nicol 2095; Jafar F.MS.451E
 CONDITION: *Plugged, about fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,000-3,000

NOTE: Arslan al-Basasiri was a Turkish general who served the Buwayhids in Baghdad until their overthrow by the Seljuqs in 447h. Fearing the new Seljuq regime, Basasiri offered his services to the Fatimids who promised him military and financial aid to stage a coup in the Abbasid capital. His chance came in 450h when the Seljuq Sultan, Tughril Beg, was away from Baghdad, leaving al-Basasiri able to occupy the city with only a small force. Al-Basasiri duly had the Fatimid al-Mustansir acknowledged in the Friday prayers, and also compelled the Abbasid caliph to sign a document acknowledging that the Fatimids should be the rightful caliphs as long as their line endured.

Al-Basasiri held Baghdad for the Fatimids for almost exactly a year, before the return of Tughril Beg and his army in 451h brought the city firmly back under Seljuq control.



131

FATIMID, AL-MUSTANSIR (427-487h)

Dinar, 'Akka 484h

WEIGHT: 4.30g
 REFERENCE: Nicol 2037
 CONDITION: *Minor edge marks, very fine to good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



132

FATIMID, AL-MUNTAZAR (524-526h)

Dinar, Misr 525h

OBVERSE: Outer margin: mint and date
Inner margin: *Abu'l-Qasim al-Muntazar bi-amr Allah Amir al-Mu'minin*
In centre: *al-Imam | Muhammad*

REVERSE: Outer margin: Qur'an ix, 33
Inner margin: *la ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah 'Ali wali Allah*
In centre: *'Al | ghaya*

WEIGHT: 4.19g
REFERENCE: Nicol 2590
CONDITION: *Small test-cut on edge, fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £3,000-4,000



133

FATIMID, AL-MUNTAZAR (524-526h)

Dinar, al-Mu'izziya al-Qahira 525h

OBVERSE: as lot 132
REVERSE: as lot 132
WEIGHT: 4.15g
REFERENCE: Nicol 2594
CONDITION: *Fine to good fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £2,500-3,000

NOTE: When the Fatimid Imam al-Amir was assassinated in 524h, al-Hafiz was named as his successor but was not initially given the title of caliph. Al-Hafiz was quickly imprisoned by the ambitious Kutayfat, whose father had been vizier under al-Amir and who now attempted to seize power for himself. *'Kutayfat declared the Fatimid dynasty deposed and proclaimed the sovereignty of al-Mahdi, the twelfth imam of the Twelver Shi'is, whose reappearance had been expected since 260/874. As a result of this ingenious religio-political solution to the succession problem...[Kutayfat] acquired a unique position of power, ruling as a dictator responsible to no one either in theory or practice.'* (Daftary, F., *The Isma'ilis: Their History and Doctrines*, Cambridge, 2007).

Kutayfat struck coins naming *al-Muntazar* (the 'Expected One') until he himself was deposed and executed in 526h.



134

FATIMID, AL-'ADID (555-567h)

Dinar, al-Mu'izziya al-Qahira 565h

WEIGHT: 4.06g
REFERENCE: Nicol 2712
CONDITION: *Flan fault in centre of obverse, very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



135

BAHRI MAMLUK, BAYBARS II (708-709h)

Dinar, al-Qahira, (70)8h

OBVERSE:	In field: <i>al-Mansuri al-sultan al-malik al-muzaffar Rukn al-dunya wa'l-din Baybars Qasim amir al-mu'minin</i> In margin: vestiges of legend
REVERSE:	In field: <i>duriba bi'l-Qahira la ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah arsulahu bi'l-huda wa din al-haqq</i> In margin: vestiges of mint/date legend, with unit of date legible as <i>thaman</i> , 'eight'
WEIGHT:	6.23g
CONDITION:	<i>Good very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished</i>
ESTIMATE:	£7,000-9,000
NOTE:	See footnote to following lot.



136

BAHRI MAMLUK, BAYBARS II (708-709h)

Dinar, al-Qahira, date off flan

OBVERSE:	In field: <i>al-Mansuri al-sultan al-malik al-muzaffar Rukn al-dunya wa'l-din Abu'l-Fath Baybars Qasim amir al-mu'minin</i> In margin: partial legend ... <i>illa Allah Muhammad rasul...</i>
REVERSE:	In field: <i>duriba bi'l-Qahira la ilaha illa Allah Muhammad rasul Allah arsulahu bi'l-huda wa din al-haqq</i> In margin: vestiges of legend
WEIGHT:	4.61g
CONDITION:	<i>Some marginal weakness, good very fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished</i>
ESTIMATE:	£6,000-8,000

NOTE: These two pieces appear to be the first published gold coins of the short-lived ruler Baybars II. Balog and Album both report only silver and copper issues for this ruler.

Baybars II came to power after the abdication of Muhammad I in 708h. He had previously been Muhammad's governor in Egypt, suppressing a rebellion there in 701h. Baybars also served in the Mamluk army which defeated the Mongols at Marj al-Saffar in 702h, a victory which put an end to Mongol incursions into Syria. He was also entrusted with the prestigious, if potentially hazardous, position of the Sultan's official food-taster.

His short reign was marked by economic and political unrest and, after riots on the streets of Cairo, Baybars II fled the city. Muhammad I returned to rule in his stead and Baybars himself was captured and executed, having ruled only ten months and twenty-four days.



137

BURJI MAMLUK, TUMANBAY II (922h)
Ashrafi, al-Qahira 922h

WEIGHT: 3.39g
 REFERENCE: Balog 904b, *same dies*
 CONDITION: *Minor edge marks, good fine with both mint and date clear, very rare thus*
 ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



‡138

BATINITE RULERS OF ALAMUT, MUHAMMAD B. BUZURGUMID (532-557h)
Fractional dinar, Kursi al-Daylam 536h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha | illa Allah | Muhammad | rasul Allah*
 In field, to right and left: *Muhammad bin – Buzurkumid*
 REVERSE: In field: *‘Ali wali Allah | al-Mustafa | li-din Allah | Nizar*
 WEIGHT: 2.34g
 REFERENCE: Hamdan and Vardanyan 2
 CONDITION: *Very fine and well struck for issue, very rare thus*
 ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000



139

BATINITE RULERS OF ALAMUT, MUHAMMAD B. BUZURGUMID (532-557h)
Fractional dinar, Kursi al-Daylam 555h

WEIGHT: 0.83g
 REFERENCE: Hamdan and Vardanyan 14
 CONDITION: *Unit of date weak, very fine and rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



140

BATINITE RULERS OF ALAMUT, TEMP. AL-HASAN (557-561h)
Fractional dinar, Kursi al-Daylam 561h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha | illa Allah | Muhammad | rasul Allah*
 REVERSE: In field: *‘Ali wali Allah | al-Mustafa | li-din Allah | Nizar*
 WEIGHT: 0.94g
 REFERENCE: cf Hamdan and Vardanyan 18 [dated 560h]
 CONDITION: *Some weak areas but generally very fine and extremely rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



141

BATINITE RULERS OF ALAMUT, 'ALA AL-DIN MUHAMMAD III (618-653h)
Dirham, Baldat Iqbal 619h

REVERSE: In field: *Muhammad | al-sultan al-'azam | 'Ala al-dunya wa'l-din | bin al-Hasan*
 WEIGHT: 3.36g
 REFERENCES: Hamdan and Vardanyan 37, *same dies*; Album 1921 RRR
 CONDITION: *Metal fault on obverse which is also struck off-centre, otherwise almost very fine and toned, rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: The mint-name on this coin is clearly *Baldat Iqbal*, without the definite article.



142

RASSID, AL-HADI YAHYA B. AL-HUSAYN (284-298h)
Donative dirham, San'a, undated

WEIGHT: 2.39g
 REFERENCE: SICA 10: 195A
 CONDITION: *Pierced four times, almost very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £800-1,200



143

RASSID, AL-MANSUR AL-QASIM AL-AYYANI (389-393h)
Dinar, San'a 389h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Muhammad rasul Allah*
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | al-Mansur billah | amir al-mu' - | minin al-Qasim | bin rasul Allah*
 WEIGHT: 1.99g
 REFERENCE: Album 1069M RRR
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



144

TARAFID AMIRS OF 'ATHAR, AL-FARAJ AL-TARAFI (fl. 381-392h)

Dinar, 'Athar '9' (for 389h or 390h)

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa Allah | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-Ta'i lillah*
 REVERSE: In field: *amr bihi al-amir | al-Faraj | al-Tarafī | letter ha*
 WEIGHT: 2.78g
 REFERENCES: SICA 10: -; Album F1070 RRR
 CONDITION: *Toned, very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200

NOTE: It is not uncommon for the dates on Yemeni coins of this period to be truncated – it seems the die engraver simply ran out of space. The dates of al-Faraj al-Tarafī mean that this piece can be securely dated to 389h or 390h.



145

TARAFID AMIRS OF 'ATHAR, AL-FARAJ AL-TARAFI (fl. 381-392h)

Dinar, 'Athar (3)91h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa Allah | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-Ta'i lillah*
 REVERSE: In field: *amr bihi al-amir | al-Faraj | al-Tarafī | letter ha*
 WEIGHT: 2.71g
 REFERENCES: Diler p.844; Album F1070 RRR
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: Three coins of al-Faraj al-Tarafī were offered for sale at Sotheby's (29 September 1988, lots 168-170), with the governor's name incorrectly read as al-Qasim b. al-Taraf. Unfortunately, this led Diler to reports that two varieties of dinar were struck at 'Athar in the year 391h: one naming al-Faraj (as here) and the other al-Qasim. The illustrations in the Sotheby's catalogue confirm that all three pieces were in fact coins of al-Faraj al-Tarafī, and Album correctly omits the spurious al-Qasim from his *Checklist*.



146

ZURAY'ID, 'IMRAN B. MUHAMMAD (550-561h)

Dinar, 'Adan 562h (sic)

OBVERSE: In field: *al-malik | la ilaha illa Allah | Muhammad rasul Allah | 'Ali wali Allah*
 REVERSE: In field: *awhad muluk | al-zaman malik al-'arab | wa'l-yaman 'Imran | b. Muhammad*
 WEIGHT: 2.33g
 REFERENCES: Album 1080I RRR: cf Bikhazi 276 [a lifetime issue, dated 556h]
 CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



147

ZANGID OF MAWSIL, MAS'UD I (576-589h)

Dinar, Tikrit 577h

REVERSE: In field, beginning to the left of centre: *Mas'ud bin – Mawdud – 'Izz al-din*

WEIGHT: 5.21g

REFERENCE: Album 1862

CONDITION: *Pierced, very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: Album states that dinars of Mas'ud I and his successors are known only from the mint of al-Mawsil.



148

SELJUQ OF RUM, KAYQUBADH I (616-634h)

Dinar, Siwas 631h

OBVERSE: In field: *al-Imam | al-Mustansir | billah*
In margin: *amir al-mu'minin duriba hadha al-dinar bi-Siwas*

REVERSE: In field: *al-Sultan | al-mu'azzam | 'Ala al-dunya*
In margin: *wa'l-din al-Fath (sic) Kayqubad bin Kaykhusraw sanat ahad wa thamanin wa sitt mi'at*

WEIGHT: 4.38g

REFERENCES: Broome 199 = Hennequin 1715, same rev. die; Album A1211.1 RRR

CONDITION: *Traces of mounting on edge, very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-7,000



149

SELJUQ OF RUM, THE THREE BROTHERS (647-657h)

Dinar, Qunya 648h

OBVERSE: naming the Abbasid caliph al-Musta'sim billah, mint and date below

REVERSE: naming the three brothers as *'Izz al-dunya wa'l-din Kayka'us wa Rukn al-dunya wa'l-din Qilij Arslan wa 'Ala al-dunya wa'l-din Kayqubad bin (sic) Kaykhusraw*

WEIGHT: 4.54g

REFERENCE: Tevhid 1286

CONDITION: *Light deposit, extremely fine*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



150

OTTOMAN, SULAYMAN I (926-974h)

Sultani, Khudayda (?) 937h

WEIGHT: 3.52g
 REFERENCES: Pere 174, *same dies*; Album A1118; cf Zeno 9117
 CONDITION: *Minor edge marks, otherwise good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £5,000-7,000

NOTE: Khudayda (modern Arabic *al-Hudayda*) was a port city on the west coast of Yemen.

This coin is struck from the same dies as the piece which Pere attributed to Khudayda, and is stylistically very similar to the example illustrated on Zeno. The date is, unfortunately, ambiguous; comparison with the Zeno specimen suggests that the first digit is an open-topped '9' and the second a '3' rather than an elongated '2', but the unit of the date is difficult to read. Close inspection shows that it is not simply a '1' but that there is another line extending to the right, almost parallel with the rim of the coin to make a '7'.

Diler (p. 519) listed several Ottoman coins which have been assigned to this mint, which he discussed in some detail. He evidently believed the mint-name to be spurious and based on a number of misreadings. In some cases, he was surely right – he noted that it is impossible for Ottoman coins to have been issued at Khudayda before 932h for historical reasons, and so the coins of Selim I (918-926h) assigned to Khudayda must certainly be misattributed. But it is less easy to dismiss sultanis of Khudayda in this way, given that the Zeno specimen appears to be dated 936h, while the year on the present coin seems best read as 937h. Moreover, Diler's further observation that coins attributed to Khudayda seem not to have a Yemeni provenance is to some extent irrelevant, especially where 'Khudayda' can be shown on historical grounds to be a misreading. In these cases the coin in question had no connection with the Yemen in the first place and one would hardly expect it to be found there. Khudayda is in any case a port town, so it would hardly be surprising if any gold coins in particular struck there may have travelled overseas.

The main Ottoman Yemeni mint at this time was located at Zabid, where sultanis were struck in various years between 932h and 962h. All carry the actual year of issue rather than the Sultan's accessional year, a feature which they share with the present coin and the Zeno specimen. This is in contrast with sultanis from the mint of Jazira, a mint-name which Diler correctly notes would be written with similar letter-forms to Khudayda; these appear to be known dated 926h only.

Diler also points out that the mint-name could be read as 'Jadida', and claims that '*there were at least 7 localities called al-Jedeide in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, which would have been written like al-Khudayda but with a diacritical point under the first letter.*' But the only one of these which Diler himself records as a mint is not recorded as having issued Ottoman coins, and seems only to have been active under the Golden Horde (Diler p. 428). So a hypothetical 'Jadida' or 'Jedeide' would equally be an unpublished mint and, as Diler himself notes '*...it is very easy to attribute a coin to a locality but extremely difficult to disprove it.*'



151

OTTOMAN, MUSTAFA I (FIRST REIGN, 1031-1032h)

Sultani, Misr 1031h

WEIGHT: 3.38g
 REFERENCE: Pere 379
 CONDITION: *Edge shaved, otherwise good very fine for issue and rare*
 ESTIMATE: £2,000-2,500



152

OTTOMAN, 'ALI BEY (1183-1185h)

Kurus, Misr 1171/85

OBVERSE: Toughra of Mustafa III
 REVERSE: In field: stars to either side of accessional year, 'Ali to left of date above mint-name
 WEIGHT: 14.70g
 REFERENCE: KM #117
 CONDITION: *Fair to fine and rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



153

OTTOMAN, 'ABD AL-HAMID I (1187-1203h)

Double zir-i mahbub, Misr 1187/2

WEIGHT: 4.78g
 REFERENCE: Pere – (cf 666 for a single zir-i mahbub of this type)
 CONDITION: *Pierced, good very fine and rare*
 ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200



154

154

OTTOMAN, 'ABD AL-HAMID II (1293-1327h)

Large gold medal for the Earthquake of July 10, 1894

OBVERSE: Toughra within crescent; *Hamiyet ve ebnaya cinsine muavenet* below
REVERSE: Laurel-wreath with date *sanat 1312* below, in the centre of which is engraved *banq 'Uthmani mu'awini* ('Osmanli bankasi Muavinine / Vice President of the Ottoman Bank')
WEIGHT: 34.06g
DIAMETER: 34.9mm
REFERENCES: Erüreten p.269
CONDITION: Minor contact marks, almost extremely fine and extremely rare, in original red fitted case with seal affixed to the base reading 'Imperial Ottoman bank Cairo'.

ESTIMATE: £8,000-10,000

NOTE: On 10 July 1894 Turkey was hit by a powerful earthquake with its epicentre in the Sea of Marmara. More than a thousand people were killed, including 276 in Istanbul itself where the quake also caused extensive damage to the old city. Medals in gold, silver and bronze were presented to people who gave assistance in the aftermath of the earthquake, either in the form of financial aid or by helping personally. The present piece is an extremely rare example of the large-sized gold award.



155

DULAFID, AHMAD B. 'ABD AL-'AZIZ (265-280h)

Dinar, Mah al-Basra 274h

OBVERSE: In field: *al-Imam | la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | al-Nasir li-din Allah | al-Muwaffaq bil-lah | Ahmad b. 'Abd al-'Aziz*

WEIGHT: 3.87g

REFERENCES: Bernardi 201Mq (date not listed); cf Sotheby's, 28 May 1987, lot 870, *same obverse die*

CONDITION: *Good fine to very fine, very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500



156

SAJID, YUSUF B. DIWDAD (288-315h)

Dinar, Arminiya 303h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu*

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Muqtadir billah | Yusuf b. Diwdad | annulet*

WEIGHT: 4.01g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 251Kb (citing a single example)

CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine, very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,800-2,200



157

SAJID, YUSUF B. DIWDAD (288-315h)

Dinar, Ardabil 311h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Abu'l-'Abbas b. | Amir al-Mu'minin*

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Muqtadir billah | al-wazir Abu'l-Hasan | Yusuf b. Diwdad | crescent*

WEIGHT: 4.64g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 252Ka, *this piece cited*

CONDITION: *Wavy flan, very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500

PROVENANCE: Ex Sotheby's auction, 9 April 1992, lot 352.



158

KURDISH RULERS OF ADHARBAYJAN, DAYSAM B. IBRAHIM (326-341h)

Dinar, al-Maragha 326h

OBVERSE: In field: crescent above, two pellets below
 REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Radi billah | Daysam bin Ibrahim* | two pellets
 WEIGHT: 3.44g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 296Ke (date not listed, known only from 328h); Vardanyan -
 CONDITION: *Slightly wavy flan, very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: Apparently the earliest known issue from al-Maragha to bear Daysam b. Ibrahim's name.



‡159

KURDISH RULERS OF ADHARBAYJAN, DAYSAM B. IBRAHIM (326-341h)

Dinar, al-Maragha 328h

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Radi billah | Daysam bin Ibrahim*
 WEIGHT: 4.33g
 REFERENCES: Bernardi 296Ke; Vardanyan 9, *same obverse die*
 CONDITION: *Obverse slightly off-centre, very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



160

KURDISH RULERS OF ADHARBAYJAN, DAYSAM B. IBRAHIM (326-341h)

Dinar, Adharbayjan 340h

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Muti' lillah | Daysam bin Ibrahim*
 WEIGHT: 4.00g
 REFERENCE: cf Vardanyan 16 = *Centuries of Gold* 156 [dated 341h]
 CONDITION: *Mount removed, fine and extremely rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,200-1,500

NOTE: Apparently an unpublished date for the mint. Vardanyan only records silver dirhams of Daysam b. Ibrahim for this year, struck solely at Ardabil.



161

SAMANID, ISHAQ B. AHMAD (301h)

Dinar, Naysabur 301h

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Muqtadir billah | Ishaq b. Ahmad*

WEIGHT: 3.56g

REFERENCES: Bernardi 268Pj ; Album A1148 RRR

CONDITION: *Fine and very rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,00



‡162

SAMANID, NASR B. AHMAD (301-331h) and AHMAD B. SAHL (302-307h)

Dinar, Balkh 302h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | Ahmad*

REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Muqtadir billah | Nasr b. Ahmad | letter sin*

WEIGHT: 4.10g

REFERENCE: Bernardi 270Qd

CONDITION: *Wavy flan, good very fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



‡163

SAMANID, NUH B. NASR (331-343h)

Dinar, Qumm 333h

OBVERSE: In field: *star | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-Mustakfi billah | Nuh b. Nasr | two annulets*

REVERSE: In field: *Qur'an 112 (without incipit), in three lines*

WEIGHT: 3.59g

REFERENCE: Bernardi type 349 (this mint not recorded)

CONDITION: *Some deposit, good fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*

ESTIMATE £1,000-1,500

NOTE: This unusual Samanid type with the Sura *al-Ikhlās* on the reverse is known from several mints, mostly dated 333h. The present coin appears to be the first of this type known from the rare Samanid mint of Qumm.



‡164

SAMANID REBEL, IBRAHIM B. AHMAD (334-335h)

Dinar, al-Muhammadiya 334h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | lahu al-mulk wa lahu al-hamd | wa huwa 'ala kulli shay'in qadir* (Qur'an 64:1, part)
REVERSE: In field: mint-mark *teh* | *Muhammad rasul Allah | Sali Allah 'alayhi | al-Mustakfi billah | Ibrahim b. Ahmad*
WEIGHT: 4.27g
REFERENCES: Album 1458 (known only for 335h and 'Nishapur only'); Bernardi -; Miles, *Rayy* –
CONDITION: *Almost very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*
ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE: This previously unpublished coin sheds further light on the turbulent history of Rayy in the early 330s, as the city slipped from Samanid control to become a Buwayhid possession. Regular Samanid dinars of Nuh b. Nasr are known from the year 333h (Miles 172; Bernardi 349Mh); these carry Qur'an 112 in the reverse field as found on the preceding lot. But while Miles believed that the Buwayhids had taken possession of Rayy in 334h, citing a dirham published by Tornberg, Treadwell (*Buyid Coinage*) argues convincingly that the legends on this coin, which name Rukn al-Dawla alone without mentioning 'Imad al-Dawla, are impossible for a piece of this date. Instead, Treadwell suggests that the specimen described by Tornberg was probably dated 344h (for which the legends would be correct), not 334h. The earliest Buwayhid issues from Rayy known to Treadwell were struck in 335h (Treadwell Mu335 and Mu353G; Miles 174A and 174B).

The present coin is thus of historical interest in several respects. Firstly, it demonstrates that the rebellion of Ibrahim b. Ahmad began in 334h, not in 335h as previously thought, and secondly it shows that his support was not limited to the city of Nishapur. Thirdly, it allows us to correct and clarify Miles's account of the years 333-335h (*op. cit.*, p.155), where the confusing dirham described by Tornberg led him to reject Ibn al-Athir's claim that the Buwayhids did not take Rayy until the year 335h. It does appear that Rayy was left vulnerable in the year 334h after what Miles terms '*misunderstandings between the Samanid Nuh b. Nasr and his general Abu 'Ali*', but this remarkable dinar shows that it was not the Buwayhids but the Samanid rebel Ibrahim b. Ahmad who seized this opportunity to take control of the city in this year.



165

FIRUZANID, AL-HASAN B. FIRUZAN (330-356h)

Dinar, Sari 341h

OBVERSE: In field: letter *fa* | *la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | al-Muti' lillah | al-Hasan Firuzan (sic)*
 In border: four pairs of annulets
REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad | rasul Allah | Rukn al-dawla | Abu 'Ali Buwayh | unread word*
 In border: four pairs of annulets
WEIGHT: 4.76g
REFERENCE: Album P1524 RRR; cf Baldwin's Islamic Coin Auction 14, 8 July 2008, lot 349, *same reverse die*
CONDITION: *Very fine to good very fine and extremely rare*
ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000

NOTE Al-Hasan b. Firuzan was a cousin of Makan b. Kaki, alongside whom he served with the 'Alids of Tabaristan. After a colourful career during which his fortunes were closely tied to those of the Ziyarid ruler Washmgir, he ended up as a supporter of the Buwayhids, whom he acknowledges on the present coin.

Album read the mint-name on this type as Biyar, but the Baldwin's cataloguer suggested Sari which seems preferable since it is known that al-Hasan b. Firuzan was appointed governor of the city of Sari in 323.



166





Lot 166 (actual size)

‡166

BUWAYHID, RUKN AL-DAWLA

Donative 10-dinars, al-Muhammadiya 362h

OBVERSE:	In border: five broken annulets In margin: <i>bismillah duriba hadha al-dinar bi'l-Muhammadiya sanat ithnatayn wa sittin wa thalatha mi'a</i> In centre: <i>la ilaha illa Allah wahdahu la sharik lahu al-Muti' lillah Rukn al-dawla abu 'Ali Buwayh</i>
REVERSE:	In border: five broken annulets In margin: <i>Muhammad rasul Allah arsulah bi'l-huda wa din al-haqq li-li-yuzhirahu 'ala al-din kullihi wa lau kariha al-mushrikun</i> In centre: <i>Allah ahad Allah al-samad lam yalidu wa lam yuladu wa lam yakunu lahu kufu ahad</i>
DIMENSIONS:	38.1mm diameter, 2.3mm thick
WEIGHT:	42.96g
REFERENCE:	Treadwell Mu362Gb: <i>'The cataloguer of Sotheby's 19.4.94, 411 notes that a dinar of this date conforming in type to Mu362b...is known but does not give details.'</i>
CONDITION:	Minor marks on edge and in fields, otherwise good very fine or better and of the highest rarity
ESTIMATE:	£300,000-500,000
NOTE:	THE EARLIEST SURVIVING ISLAMIC GOLD COIN OF THIS EXCEPTIONAL WEIGHT

The tradition of producing special coins and medallions of exceptional size goes back to the Classical period, and developed in the later Roman and Byzantine eras. Several Roman medallions weighing 10 aurei exist today and a Byzantine medallion of 36 solidi issued by Justinian I, formerly in the Bibliothèque Nationale, was stolen and melted in the nineteenth century. The biggest surviving medallions from the ancient world are Germanic imitations of Valentinian I (with Valens) and of Valens alone, of 48 and 72 solidi respectively. Larger pieces still are described by contemporary historians.

In the Islamic world, the practice of producing special coins appears to have begun under the caliph al-Rashid, but it was under al-Mutawakkil (232-247h) that donative gold and silver coins began to be issued more regularly and more formally. Their legends and weight were identical to regular currency coins, but the calligraphy was especially fine and the design was slightly modified so as to leave a wide, plain border around the legends themselves. Apart from making them stand out from regular coins, this would of course have permitted mouting without damage to the legends, and these donative issues are indeed commonly found pierced or with loops. Most of these special coins were either of standard weight or else fractional issues, the latter possibly meant to be scattered over the heads of the populace on ceremonial occasions, but larger pieces soon followed. A silver five-dirham piece dated 325h is known (Ilisch D III 24), and in 351h the Buwayhids struck a five-dinar piece weighing 21.65g at Baghdad (Ilisch DI 20). But the present piece appears to be the earliest 10-dinar coin known today, and no other Islamic gold coin of this weight is known for more than two centuries (Ilisch 49, dated 575h). Ibn al-Athir describes an astonishing coin of 1,000 dinars weight (equivalent to more than 4kg of gold!) struck by the Buwayhid Fakhr al-dawla at Jurjan in 378h, but if this ever existed we must assume it has long since been melted (from Ilisch, note to no. 22).

The Buwayhids were from Daylam, a mountainous region in Northern Iran on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The founders of the dynasty, Rukn al-dawla (whose full name was Abu 'Ali al-Hasan) and his brother 'Imad al-dawla (Abu'l-Hasan 'Ali), both entered the services of the Samanid general Makan b. Kaki, but later switched their allegiance to Mardawij b. Ziyar. Mardawij was murdered in 323h, whereupon much of the territory formerly under his control fell to the Buwayhid brothers. They went on to consolidate and expand their position until Baghdad itself came under Buwayhid control in 334h. Establishing themselves as the caliph's 'protectors', they effectively ended his secular authority and reduced his role to a purely religious one.

Much has been made of the Buwayhids' role in what has been termed the 'Iranian interlude', the period between the weakening of Arab ascendancy in Iran from the mid 3rd/9th century and the advent of Turkish dominance with the arrival of the Seljuqs in the mid 5th/11th. During the intervening two centuries several dynasties with Iranian origins, with the Buwayhids chief among them, began to revive aspects of Iranian culture and society from pre-Islamic times, and the coinage played an important part in this process. For

example, the Buwayhids adopted the pre-Islamic title *shahanshah*, ‘King of Kings’, and their rulers themselves sometimes took Persian names. These titles found their way onto the coinage, where they appear alongside Arabic ones. A few exceptional types even reverted to pre-Islamic coinage types, including an impressive medalllic piece made at al-Muhammadiya in 351h, where the present coin was also struck eleven years later. This type, an example of which was offered in these rooms nine years ago, has an obverse broadly similar to the present coin, but its reverse carries a facing Sasanian-style portrait of Rukn al-dawla himself flanked by honorific legends in Pahlawi.

It is instructive to compare the two objects. The portrait piece (*illustrated right*) is described as a dirham in the mint/date formula, but in almost all other respects stands completely apart from the mainstream of Islamic coinage. It is cast (although it may have been cast from a struck original), and is made of silvered bronze rather than the fine silver of normal Buwayhid dirhams. Even the mint/date legend is unusual, with an additional phrase after the date which has been read as *min hijra nabawiya* (‘in the Hijra of the Prophet’). The reverse, with its facing bust of Rukn al-dawla and Pahlawi legends, is entirely Persian in its iconography. Its weight of 14.26g is approximately correct for a five-dirham coin, but as a cast piece made of bronze it is difficult to say to what extent this is deliberate. Overall, while it may describe itself as a dirham, it looks much more like a portrait medal and it is perhaps best interpreted as an object presented by Rukn al-dawla to his courtiers as a badge of favour. It is very difficult to regard it as any kind of circulating coin.



Medalllic portrait ‘dirham’ of Rukn al-Dawla, al-Muhammadiya 351h. Ex Morton and Eden auction 18, 7 March 2006, lot 50

The present coin is entirely different. It is struck rather than cast, is made of fine gold rather than being plated, correctly describes itself as a dinar, and its weight is exactly correct for ten gold dinars. Its legends and design are clearly derived from Umayyad silver dirhams, even down to the five annulets in the border (although these are in fact slightly open rather than closed circles, possibly recalling the crescents in the borders of Sasanian drachms, from which the annulets on Umayyad dirhams are thought to have evolved). The only significant difference between the legends on the present coin and those on an Umayyad dirham is in the obverse field, which is slightly expanded and rearranged to accommodate the names of the caliph and Rukn al-dawla (Umayyad precious metal coins were entirely anonymous). It must be stressed that this is far from being an Iranian prototype. Umayyad dirhams were sometimes struck at mints in Iran, but much the most active Umayyad silver mint was at Wasit, in southern Iraq, with the other main Umayyad silver mint located at Damascus in Syria. The Umayyads themselves, of course, were Arabs rather than Persians, and these silver dirhams were introduced in the late 70s Hijri to replace the older, Arab-Sasanian drachms previously in use. All in all, it would be difficult to imagine an object of this period which looks more like a conventionally Arabic coin and less like a Persian commemorative medallion than the present piece. It has even been carefully made to the exact weight of ten dinars, as was a companion piece in silver struck to five dirhams’ weight (Treadwell Mu362b = Sotheby’s, 19 April 1994, lot 444). This piece was surely never intended for commercial use but, like earlier Abbasid donative dinars and dirhams of standard weight but with broad margins, it is still most certainly a coin and not a commemorative medallion.

Why should such an imposing coin, struck at an Iranian mint at the height of Buwayhid power, have been so consciously Arabic in design? It must be remembered that however much the Buwayhids may have wished to portray themselves as an Iranian dynasty, they were part of a wider Islamic world in which secular power was bestowed by the Abbasid caliph, and were obliged to conform to the realities of the day. It is said that the Buwayhid rulers even felt it necessary to approach the caliph himself in order to receive the title of *shahanshah*. Prestige in Iran may have consolidated the Buwayhids’ position there, but their formal authority depended on their remaining part of an Islamic world, not an Iranian one. Moreover, promoting themselves as the guardians and revivers of Iran’s glorious past would have been much less popular in southern Iraq, which the Buwayhids also controlled, and especially in Baghdad itself where the Buwayhids kept the caliph under what was, effectively, house arrest.

If the cast portrait medals were intended for a purely Iranian audience, coins such as the present piece, with their irreproachably correct and beautifully-engraved Arabic legends, belong to a wider Islamic world. There is no obvious historical event which stands out as a reason why this remarkable coin should have been struck, and it is perhaps naive to look for such a simple explanation. Earlier Abbasid donatives can seldom be associated with particular events, and it seems that some caliphs (notably al-Mutawakkil and especially al-Muqtadir) issued them primarily for presentation at court and to confer status upon the recipient. But the exceptional piece offered here is far more imposing than these caliphal issues, and such a magnificent donative would surely have been a worthy gift from Rukn al-dawla even to the caliph himself, with the related silver ‘twin’ perhaps given to his courtiers.



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BUWAYHID, SULTAN AL-DAWLA (403-415h)

Pictorial dirham, Shiraz (?) 408h

OBVERSE: In field: Sasanian-style bust facing right; to left and right: *shah – Khusraw*
In first and fourth quadrants of margin: *al-malik al-adil – Abu'l-Fawaris (?)*
REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-Qadir billah wali | ahadahu al-Ghalib billah | Sultan al-dawla | Abu Shuja'*
WEIGHT: 3.76g
CONDITION: *Some chloride deposits, fine to good fine and of the highest rarity, apparently unpublished*
ESTIMATE: £3,000-5,000

NOTE: Frustratingly, the mint-name on this remarkable coin is difficult to read although the date, 408h, is clear. Shiraz is perhaps the most likely reading, because several elaborate presentation dirhams were struck there around this time and a coin of 407h bears the title *Abu'l-Fawaris*, as here. It is uncertain whether *Khusraw Shah* on the obverse is an unrecorded title for a known ruler or simply refers to the Sasanian king.



‡168

HASANWAYHID, BADR B. HASANWAYH (369-405h)

Dinar, Sabur Khwast 396h

OBVERSE: In field: mint-marks *wa-dal | la ilaha illa Allah | wahdahu la sharik lahu | al-Qadir billah | Badr b. Hasanwayh*
REVERSE: In field: *lillah | Muhammad rasul Allah | Majd al-dawla | wa kahf al-umma | Abu Talib | ibriz*
WEIGHT: 4.21g
REFERENCE: Album 1588; Kazan 992
CONDITION: *Good very fine*
ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500



169

QARAKHANID, QILIJ TAFGHAN KHAN (556-566h)

Dinar, Samarqand (5)58h

OBVERSE: In field: *la ilaha illa | Allah Muhammad | rasul Allah | al-Mustanjid billah*
REVERSE: In field: *lillah | al-khaqan al-'adil | Rukn al dunya wa | al-din Qilij | Tafghaj Khan*
WEIGHT: 3.11g
REFERENCE: Album 3397 RRR; Kochnev 1050
CONDITION: *Traces of green deposit, good fine and extremely rare, especially with clear date*
ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,200

NOTE: Album records only Balkh as a gold mint for this ruler.



170

GREAT SELJUQ, MALIKSHAH (465-485h)
Dinar, Sumayram 477h

- OBVERSE: In field: *'adl | la ilaha illa | Allah wahdahu | la sharik lahu | al-Muqtadi bi-amr Allah*
 Small flowers in left and right of field
- REVERSE: In field: *tamgha | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-sultan al-mu'azzam | Shahanshah | Mu'izz al-dawla Rukn | al-Islam Malikshah*
- REFERENCE: cf Morton and Eden auction 62, 22 April 2013, lot 131 [dated 482h]
- WEIGHT: 2.36g
- CONDITION: *Weakly struck, almost very fine and extremely rare, apparently unpublished*
- ESTIMATE: £1,000-1,500
- NOTE: The very rare mint-town of Sumayram was located on the road between Isfahan and Shiraz, near the source of the Tab river.



‡171

GREAT SELJUQ, MUHAMMAD B. MALIK SHAH (498-511h)
Dinar, Isbahan 510h, month of Ramadan

- OBVERSE: In inner margin: *bismillah duriba hadha al-dinar b'Isbahan fi shahr Ramadan sanat...*
 In field (centre): *la ilaha illa Allah | Muhammad rasul Allah | al-Mustazhir billah | al-sultan al-mu'azzam | Ghiyath al-dunya wa'l-din | Abu Shuja' Muhammad bin Malik | Shah*
 In field (to right and left): *hasbuna Allah – wa ni'm al-wakil*
- REVERSE: In margin: legend partly off-flan but possibly from Qur'an 59:22-23
 In field (centre): the entire *Ayat al-Kursi* ('Throne Verse', Qur'an 2:255) in eight lines
 In field (to right, above, left, and below): *al-sultan lillah – al-'izzatu lillah – al-azamatu lillah – al-[unread] lillah*
- REFERENCE: cf Album 1685A ('Balkh mint only')
- CONDITION: *Struck slightly off-centre with some losses to margins, very fine and extremely rare*
- ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



172

INJUYID, ABU ISHAQ (743-757h)
Dinar, Isbahan, date off flan

- WEIGHT: 8.50g
- REFERENCES: Album B2275 RRR; cf Spink Zurich auction 37, 16 September 1991, lot 343
- CONDITION: *Light deposit, struck off-centre, almost very fine and extremely rare*
- ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



173

SULTANS OF BENGAL, TEMP. GHIYATH AL-DIN 'IWAD (609-624h)

Fractional gold tanka of 20-ratl, struck in the name of Shams al-Din Iltutmish, Sultan of Dehli

OBVERSE: Horseman riding left, holding mace
 REVERSE: Five-line inscription with ruler's name and titles
 WEIGHT: 2.30g
 REFERENCE: GG B14, *same dies*
 CONDITION: *Some flat striking, fine to good fine and rare*

ESTIMATE: £1,500-2,000



174

EMIRATE OF BUKHARA, TEMP. SA'ID 'ABD AL-AHAD KHAN (AD 1886-1910)

Order of Noble Bukhara, Breast Star, Special Class

in silver-gilt, two-colour blue enamel and diamonds

DESCRIPTION: in the form of a breast star, Russian-made (in the style of Albert Keibel but unmarked,) *circa* 1900-09, having a raised central boss set with a central solitaire diamond surrounded by five smaller diamonds and three citrines, with vertical brooch pin suspension, personally awarded in 1909 by the 17th Emir of Bukhara Sa'id 'Abd al-Ahad Khan (1859 – 1911) to Baron Alexander de Stoeckl

DIAMETER: 88.6mm
 CONDITION: *Extremely fine and excessively rare*

ESTIMATE: £15,000-20,000



Sa'id 'Abd al-Ahad Khan (*left*)
and Tsar Nicholas II of Russia



Baron Alexander de Stoeckl

NOTE:

A major cultural centre and trading post on the Silk Road, Bukhara was for centuries a key city and province of the Persian Empire. Under the Samanids it also became the intellectual centre of the Islamic world. Much later, in the 19th Century, Bukhara came increasingly under Russian dominance although the Mangit Emirs remained absolute monarchs (at least as far as internal affairs were concerned) until 1920. The Order of Noble Bukhara was founded *circa* 1881, with the Russian Tsar Alexander II becoming one of its very first recipients in that year.

The flamboyant Emir's munificence in bestowing the lower grades of the Order of Noble Bukhara is well-documented although awards with diamonds are exceptionally rare. Alexander de Stoeckl was especially favoured, in part perhaps because he was Alexander II's godson, on the occasion of a reception which followed the State Funeral of Grand Duke Vladimir Alexandrovich in St Petersburg in February, 1909.

Baron Alexander ('Sasha') de Stoeckl (1862-1926) was the son of Edouard Andreevich de Stoeckl, the Russian diplomat who, as Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, negotiated the 1867 Alaska Purchase on behalf of Alexander II. Sasha, whose earliest memory was of Lincoln's funeral, was also to become a diplomat before his appointment as Equerry to Grand Duke Michael Mikhailovich in 1897. Grand Duke Michael had been banished from Russia by his cousin, Tsar Alexander III, following Michael's morganatic marriage to Countess Sophie Merenberg in 1891. For several bohemian, lively and sometimes extravagant years the household spent its winters in France and summers in England, memorably at Keele Hall in Staffordshire and Kenwood House, Hampstead.

By special dispensation Nicholas II granted Grand Duke Michael (his uncle) permission to return to Russia in order to attend the funeral of his (Michael's) father, Grand Duke Vladimir, in 1909. The de Stoeckls naturally accompanied the Grand Duke on his return to St Petersburg for the occasion.

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PROVENANCE:

Together with other family insignia the Order of Noble Bukhara survived forced relocations of the de Stoeckls from both Russia in 1917 and Poland in 1939.

Ex Morton & Eden, 10 June 2011, lot 1042, when offered by direct descent.

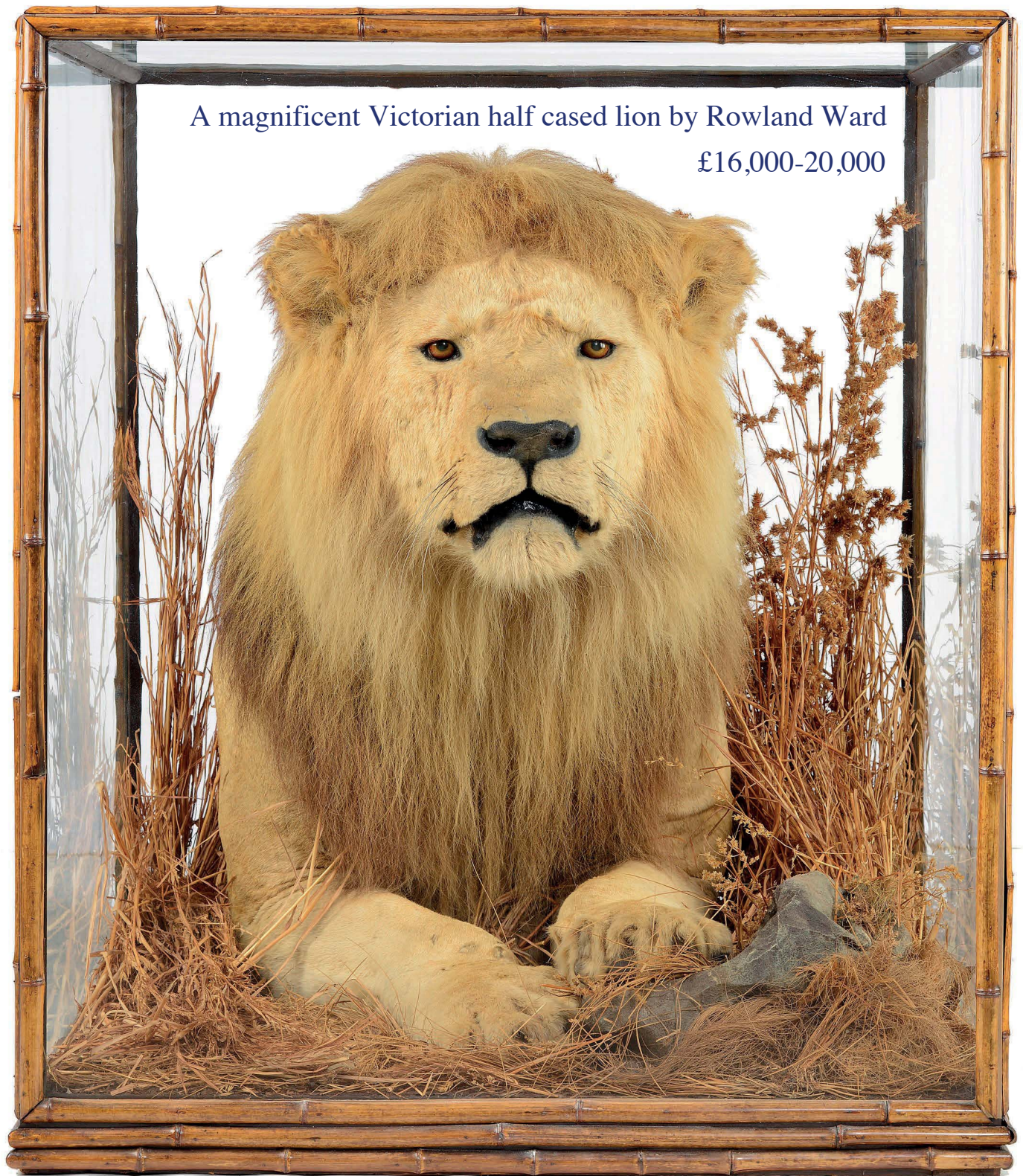
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